

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 DRC-01 /123 W

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R 291347Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2190

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0753

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, MZ

SUBJ: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

REF: A) LOURENCO MARQUES 723; (B) LOURENCO MARQUES A-146;  
(C) LOURENCO MARQUES 213

1. 149,724 MOZAMBICAN VOTERS (91 PERCENT OF REGISTERED VOTERS)  
WENT TO POLLS OCTOBER 28 TO CAST THEIR VOTES FOR THE SINGLE  
ANP TICKET AND ELECT MOZAMBIQUE'S 12 DEPUTIES IN PORTUGUESE  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. REGISTERED VOTERS TOTALLED 16  
,236, UP  
SOME 47 PERCENT FROM 111,559 REGISTERED FOR MARCH 1973  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. SPOT-CHECK OF SEVERAL LOURENCO  
MARQUES POLLING STATIONS REVEALED MODERATELY LONG LINES OF  
QUIET VOTERS, OVERWHELMINGLY WHITE IN CENTRAL FIRST "BAIRRO"  
AND AT LEAST HALF WHITE IN SUBURBAN SECOND "BAIRRO". PER-  
CENTAGE OF AFRICANS UP COUNTRY UNDOUBTEDLY MUCH HIGHER.

2. LACKLUSTRE "CAMPAIGN" LARGELY CONSISTED OF SINGLE RALLY  
IN EACH OF MOZAMBIQUE DISTRICT CAPITALS, CULMINATING IN  
LOURENCO MARQUES, AT WHICH SELECTIONS OF ANP CANDIDATES MADE  
PATRIOTIC SPEECHES WHICH WERE THEN EXTENSIVELY REPORTED  
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IN LOCAL PRESS. A SINGLE, UNINSPIRED POSTER ("WE ALL VOTE

ANP") MADE A SPORADIC APPEARANCE AROUND LOURENCO MARQUES TOWARDS  
END OF "CAMPAIGN". COPIES OF POSTER WERE PASTED UP ON CON-  
VENIENT WALLS BY UNIFORMED POLICEMEN; MOST DISAPPEARED OVER-  
NIGHT. NEWSPAPERS SOUGHT GIVE IMPRESSION OF SPIRITED CAM-  
PAIGN, BUT POPULAR INTEREST VIRTUALLY NONEXISTANT, AND MAIN  
BENEFIT SEEMED OPPORTUNITY GIVEN TO CANDIDATES TO PRACTICE  
ORATORICAL TALENTS.

3. GOAN-BORN VOTERS WERE INVITED TO VOTE FOR TWO CANDIDATES  
NOMINATED FOR "ELECTORAL CIRCLE OF STATE OF INDIA", UNLIKE  
VOTERS FOR MOZAMBIKAN DEPUTIES, THEY WERE NOT REQUIRED TO HAVE  
BEEN REGISTERED IN ADVANCE -- A SIMPLE WITNESSED DOCUMENT  
ATTESTING THEIR GOAN BIRTH WAS APPARENTLY CONSIDERED SUFFICIENT.  
TOTAL GOAN TALLY FOR MOZAMBIQUE NOT YET PUBLISHED.

4. COMMENT: NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS, THOUGH SUBSTANTIALLY  
INCREASED OVER THAT IN MARCH'S LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS,  
WAS STILL ABOUT 80,000 LESS THAN GOVERNOR-GENERAL (LOURENCO  
MARQUES 213) HAD PREDICTED. ELECTION ITSELF, WITHOUT EVEN  
THE SIMULACRUM OF LEGAL OPPOSITION PERMITTED IN METROPOLE,  
WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE DENOUNCED INTERNATIONALLY AS A FARCE.  
IN TERMS OF WESTERN POLITICAL DEMOCRACY THIS IS CERTAINLY  
TRUE. IN PERSPECTIVE, PERHAPS, ONE SHOULD RECALL THAT VIRTUALLY  
NOWHERE ON THIS CONTINENT (WITH THE PARTIAL EXCEPTION OF SOUTH  
AFRICA AND RHODESIA) DO OPPOSITIONS CONTEST ELECTIONS. IN TERMS  
OF MOZAMBIKAN DEVELOPMENT, WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT IS NOT THE  
ELECTIONS AS SUCH, BUT RATHER THE FACT THAT THE AUTHORITIES  
CONTINUE TO USE THE SYSTEM TO PLACE INCREASING NUMBERS OF  
AFRICANS (IN THIS CASE 5 OUT OF 12) IN POSITIONS OF PROMINENCE,  
ALBEIT NOT FOR THE TIME BEING OF GREAT POWER.  
VAN OSS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** LOURENCO MARQUES  
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**Image Path:**  
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